



Image

1712

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 05015.0365U1  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: **IRICK, JR. et al.** )  
Application No.: **09/662,965** ) Art Unit: **1712**  
Filed: **September 15, 2000** ) Examiner: **Short, Patricia A.**  
For: **METHODS FOR SLOWING THE** ) Confirmation No.: **3021**  
**DEGRADATION RATE OF BIODEGRADABLE** )  
**POLYMERS AND BIODEGRADABLE** )  
**POLYMER COMPOSITIONS AND** )  
**COMPOSITIONS THEREOF** )

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.  
Customer Number 23859

February 6, 2004

Dear Madam:

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated November 7, 2003. This Amendment is submitted in the form authorized by revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.